Secondly, the Committees should be given greater powers in regard to finance. Under the existing arrangements, the Committees have the power of transferring funds from one sub-head to another under each major head. But that was not sufficient. Power should be given to the Committee to transfer funds from one major head to another.

Thirdly, the Committees should have power to frame rules on emergent occasions, as, for instance, when an epidemic broke out. They had now to invoke the aid of the Epidemic Diseases Regulation and address Government on the subject. That took a lot of time. The best arrangement would be to empower the Committees to frame rules with the help of the local Medical officer to meet an emergency.

Fourthly, the right of moving resolutions in the Committees should be given to the Members.

Dewan.—Is such a power exercised by the Municipalities in British India?

Member.—I am not aware.

Dewan.—They have, I believe, only the right of interpellation.

Member.—The right of moving resolutions in respect of matters appertaining to Municipal administration must be given to the Members.

The Member concluded by saying that, as the Municipal Conference was soon to meet, he would place other matters of detail for consideration at the Conference.

Dewan's reply.—With reference to the first point urged by the Member, I may say that the Government are for giving as much power as possible to the Committees, provided the practical working of these institutions is not thereby rendered impossible or difficult. That, of course, depends upon the state of feeling which exists between the President and the Members of the Committees. Very often the relation between the President and the Members is quite cordial and then there would be no difficulty. Sometimes, unfortunately, the relationship is not as cordial as it should be. Then it is that difficulties begin to be felt.

The other points also will be considered carefully.

33. Desirability of amending Section 23 of the Irrigation Regulation.

Mr. K. Narayana Pillai (Member, Ambalapuzha Taluk) said that, for the advantageous cultivation of the *punja* lands in Kuttanad, it was essential that the ring bunds of groups of lands taken together should be completed by the month of Kanni or at least before the Thulam floods. The failure of some of the cultivators to contribute cost or labour for the work of erecting such ring bunds would be known only in the month of Vrischikam. That was the time when the aggrieved proprietors of lands would resort to the benefit of section 23 of the Irrigation Regulation, III of 1072. At that time the cultivators could not afford to leave their lands, as, if they did, cultivation would suffer. Section 23 gave power to take action, after enquiry, to the Division Peishkar. But, to meet the emergency of the occasion, it was necessary that the local Tahsildar should have the power. In the interests of the *punja* cultivators of Kuttanad, the Member prayed that section 23 of the Irrigation Regulation be amended so as to invest Tahsildars with the powers now exercised by Division Peishkars under that section.

Dewan's reply.—Under Regulation VI of 1090, the Government can empower *any* officer to take action under section 23 of the Irrigation Regulation. The opinions of the Peishkars as to the classes of officers who may be thus empowered will be invited and, on receipt of their reports, necessary action will be taken.

(2) CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

34. Suggestions for the better administration of Criminal Justice in the Shertalay taluk.

Mr. R. Sankaranarayana Menon (Member, Shertalay Taluk) first dwelt upon the importance of the taluk and the long-standing grievance of the people

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